ECLIPSE INTERNATIONAL
$1.50/USA • $2.25/CAN

AREA 88

by KAORU SHINTANI

14

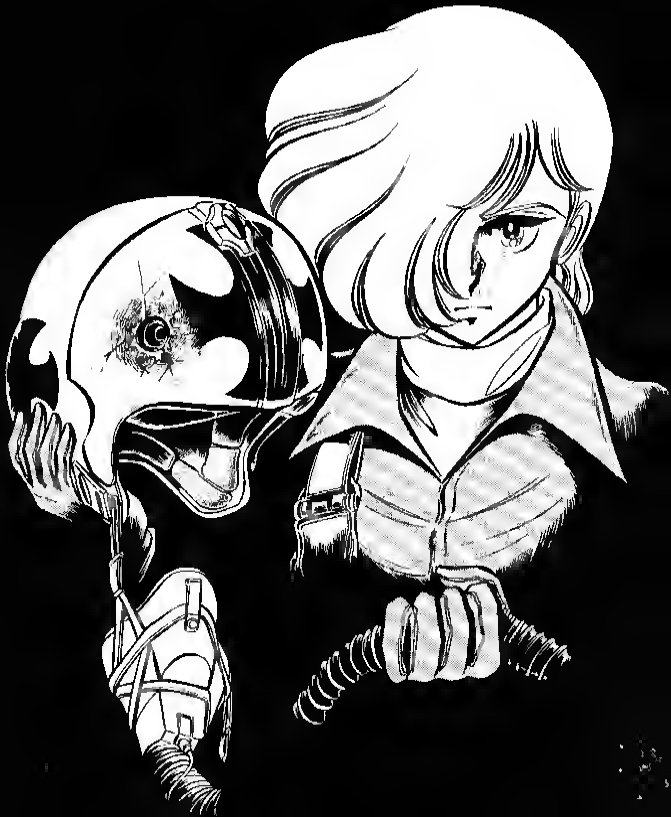
BIWEEKLY

Being a Great Pilot Isn't Good Enough At This Edge of Hell. This Fiery Battleground AREA 88.

VIZ COMICS

MISSION 14: The REQUIREMENTS of WOLVES

SCANNED BY HIKARU



SHAROOOOF
SHIN TO TOWER! I'M MAKING MY APPROACH!
FROOOOOF
YAAH!!
TOWER TO SHIN! LOOK OUT! THERE'S A PLANE ON YOUR TAIL!
WHAT!?

VEEEEEE
DAMN!!
SECOND LIEUTENANT
WHO WAS THAT LUNATIC?!
I'LL KILL HIM!!
THAT BASTARD! HE MADE A FOOL OF US ALL!!
MICK!
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, JERK!? YOU TRYING TO KILL US?!

SHOOM

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE HERE IF YOU CAN'T AVOID THAT LITTLE MANEUVER!
WHAT?!
DID YOU COME HERE TO STIR UP TROUBLE?!
GAK!
WHO IS THIS CLOWN?!
I'LL TELL YOU BEFORE HE DOES! THE NAME'S MARIO BANDINI. I'M GOING TO BE ONE OF YOU GUYS FROM HERE ON OUT!
SORRY YOU DIDN'T LIKE MY GREETING!
HUH... AN ITALIAN...
HEY DUDE! THERE AIN'T ANY PASTA 'ROUND HERE, CAPISCE?!
SO, HE'S MARIO BANDINI...
DO YOU KNOW HIM, MICK?
YEAH, THERE'S AN AEROBATIC TEAM CALLED "FRECCE TRICOLORI"--THAT'S THREE-COLORED ARROWS--IN THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE.
IT'S A TEAM OF TEN TO TWELVE PLANES I HEARD HE WAS FLYING SOLO FOR THE TEAM
HMMMM..

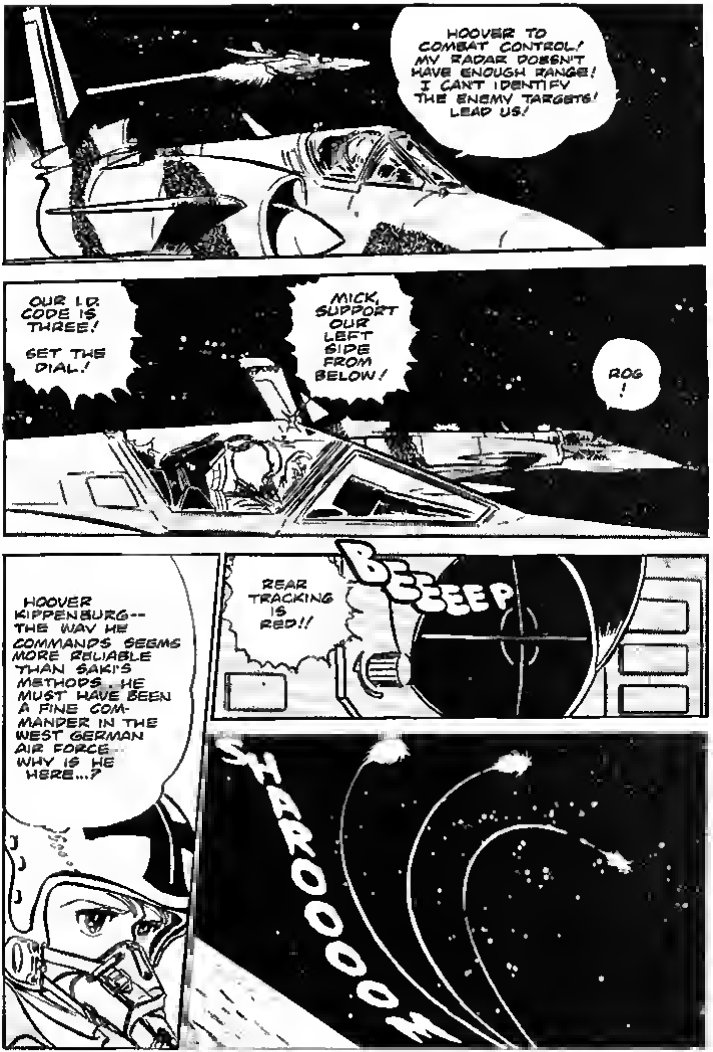
BUT OUR TEAM ONLY HAS TEN PLANES. THERE ISN'T A KFIR LEFT FOR HIM.
DOES THAT MEAN SOMEONE'S GOING TO BE GROUNDED ?
HE'LL BE TAKING OVER MY PLANE.
WHAT ?! YOUR PLANE ?!
I WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE MY DIRECT COMMAND OVER YOU, BUT THERE ARE TOO MANY PRESSING DUTIES ON THE GROUND.
THEN WHO'S GOING TO COMMAND US?!
DON'T SAY THAT WOP IS OUR NEW LEADER !
HOOVER IM MAKING YOU THE COMMANDER.
YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE COMMANDING HIGH SPEED FORMATIONS IN THE NATO AIR FORCE
YES, SIR.
HOOVER'S A GOOD CHOICE.
DO A GOOD JOB, OKAY ?!
SO.. YOU'RE THE NEW COMMANDER, HUH? ARE YOU A GERMAN ?
YES.

YOU MUST BE HOOVER KIPPENBURG, EX-MAJOR OF THE WEST GERMAN AIR FORCE. ADOLPH KIPPENBURG, YOUR FATHER, SHOT DOWN 130 PLANES WITH HIS MESSERSCHMIDT DURING WORLD WAR I. AND YOUR GRANDFATHER, KAEL VON KIPPENBURG, WAS ONE OF THE "BLUE MAXES" DURING WORLD WAR I.
YOU'VE GOT ONE IMPRESSIVE FAMILY BACKGROUND!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT...? WERE YOU A GENEALOGIST IN ROME?
NO. I'VE ADORED FIGHTER PILOTS SINCE I WAS A KID. I KNOW MOST OF THE FAMOUS FIGHTER PILOTS IN EUROPE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS MERCENARY AIR FORCE?
IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT ACCIDENT?
ACCIDENT..?
WHAT'D YOU DO, HOOVER?

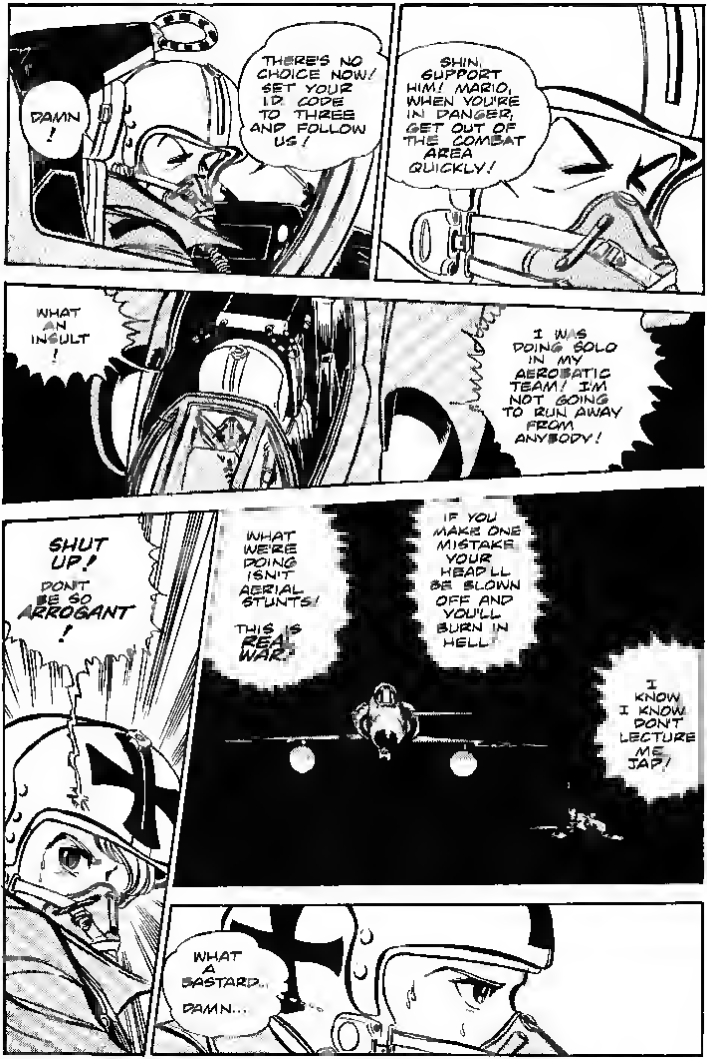
THAT'S ENOUGH, KID! THIS IS A MERCENARY AIR FORCE! WE DON'T CARE ABOUT PEOPLE'S PASTS OR RECORDS!
ONE OF THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT THIS PLACE IS THAT NOBODY ASKS YOU WHY YOU'RE HERE
SO, WE WON'T EVEN ASK YOU.
WELL, I WILL! ARE YOU HERE BECAUSE THE LAW WANTS YOUR ASS, OR SOME ANGRY HUSBAND'S AFTER YOU?
SHUT UP !!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU GUYS !
I CAME HERE TO BE A REAL FIGHTER PILOT !
SAY WHAT?! WEREN'T YOU A FIGHTER PILOT IN THE AEROBATIC TEAM? YOU MUST'VE BEEN USING A FIAT G9, THAT LIGHT AGILE FIGHTER...
THAT'S NOT A REAL FIGHTER, IT'S JUST A JET PLANE !
I WANT TO BE IN REAL COMBAT !
HE WANTS TO BE IN REAL COMBAT INSTEAD OF MAKE BELIEVE ?!
WHAT A FRUITCAKE!

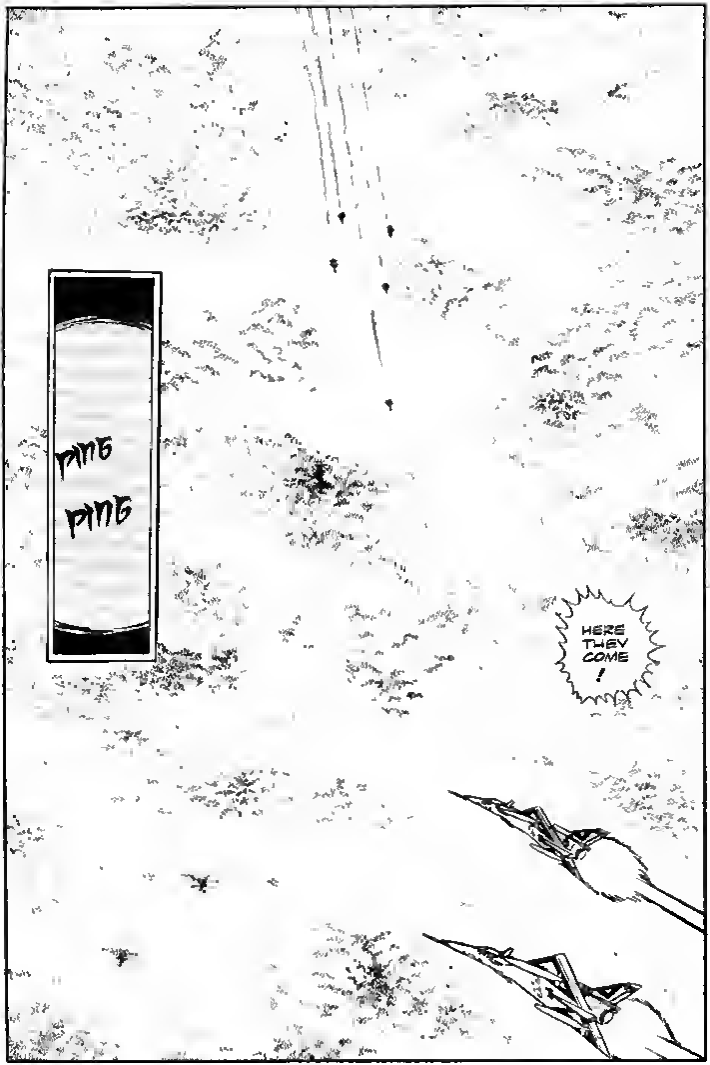
AHOOGA
AHOOGA
DAMN! THOSE WOLF PACK CLOWNS ARE BACK AGAIN!
SHIN!
MICK!
WE'RE GOING TO TAKE OFF!
ENEMY FORMATION OF FIVE JET FIGHTERS APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHEAST!
I'M COMING TOO!
NO A NIGHT OPERATION LIKE THIS IS TOO HARD ON A ROOKIE!
STAY HERE!

TOWER, WE'RE CLIMBING TO ANGELS THREE-THREE!
SHIN, MICK, SWITCH RADIO FREQ TO THE MILITARY BAND!
ROG!

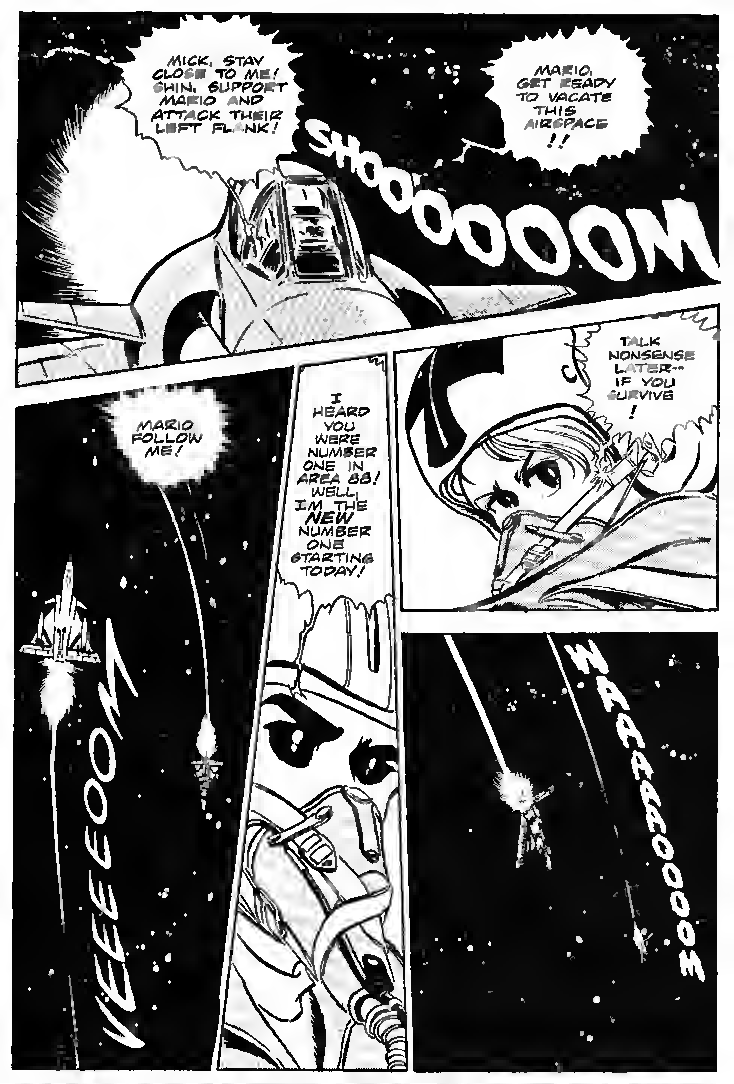

HOOVER TO COMBAT CONTROL! MY RADAR DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH RANGE! I CAN'T IDENTIFY THE ENEMY TARGETS! LEAD US!
OUR I.D. CODE IS THREE! SET THE DIAL!
MICK, SUPPORT OUR LEFT SIDE FROM BELOW!
ROG!
HOOVER KIPPENBURG-- THE WAY HE COMMANDS SEEMS MORE RELIABLE THAN SAKI'S METHODS. HE MUST HAVE BEEN A FINE COMMANDER IN THE WEST GERMAN AIR FORCE... WHY IS HE HERE...?
REAR TRACKING IS RED!!
BEEEEEEP
SHAROOOOE

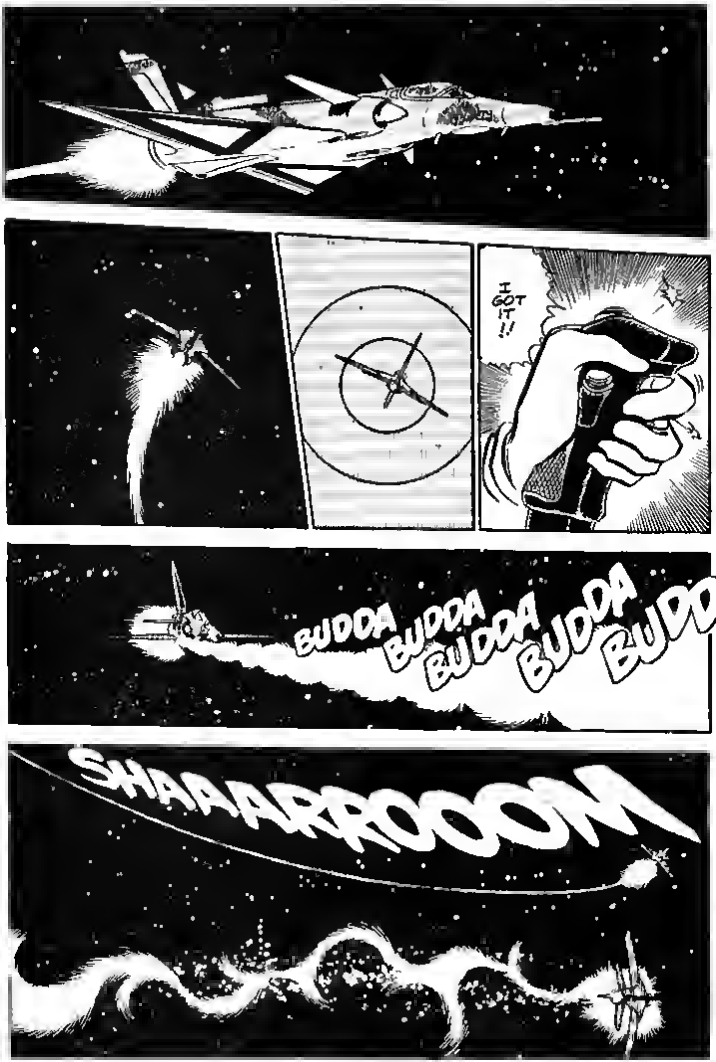
VAAAOOOM
WAIT !! IM ONE OF YOU GUYS!
MAZIO !
HEH, HEH, HEH.. I WON'T GET IN THE WAY, SO TAKE ME WITH YOU!

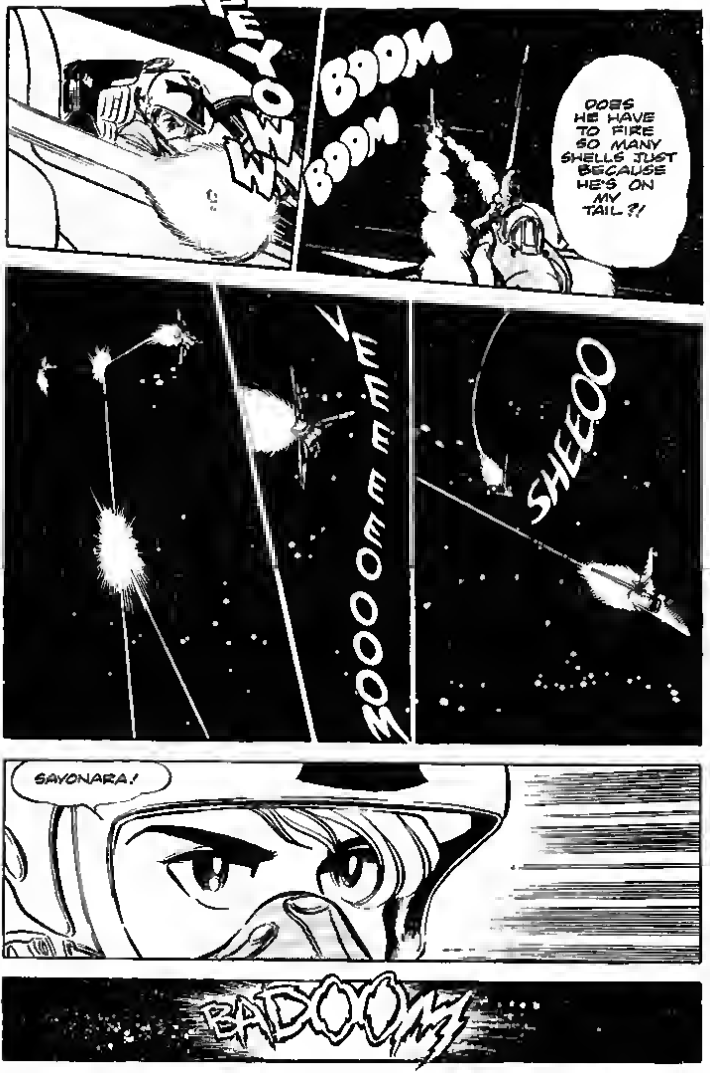

DAMN !
THERE'S NO CHOICE NOW! SET YOUR ID CODE TO THREE AND FOLLOW US!
SHIN, SUPPORT HIM! MARIO, WHEN YOU'RE IN DANGER, GET OUT OF THE COMBAT AREA QUICKLY!
WHAT AN INSULT !
I WAS DOING SOLO IN MY AEROBATIC TEAM! I'M NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY FROM ANYBODY!
SHUT UP! DON'T BE SO ARROGANT !
WHAT WE'RE DOING ISN'T AERIAL STUNTS! THIS IS REAL WAR.
IF YOU MAKE ONE MISTAKE, YOUR HEAD'LL BE BLOWN OFF AND YOU'LL BURN IN HELL!
I KNOW I KNOW. DON'T LECTURE ME JAP!
WHAT A BASTARD... DAMN...

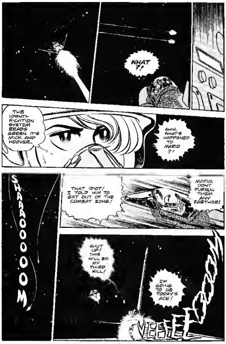

PING
PING
HERE THEY COME!

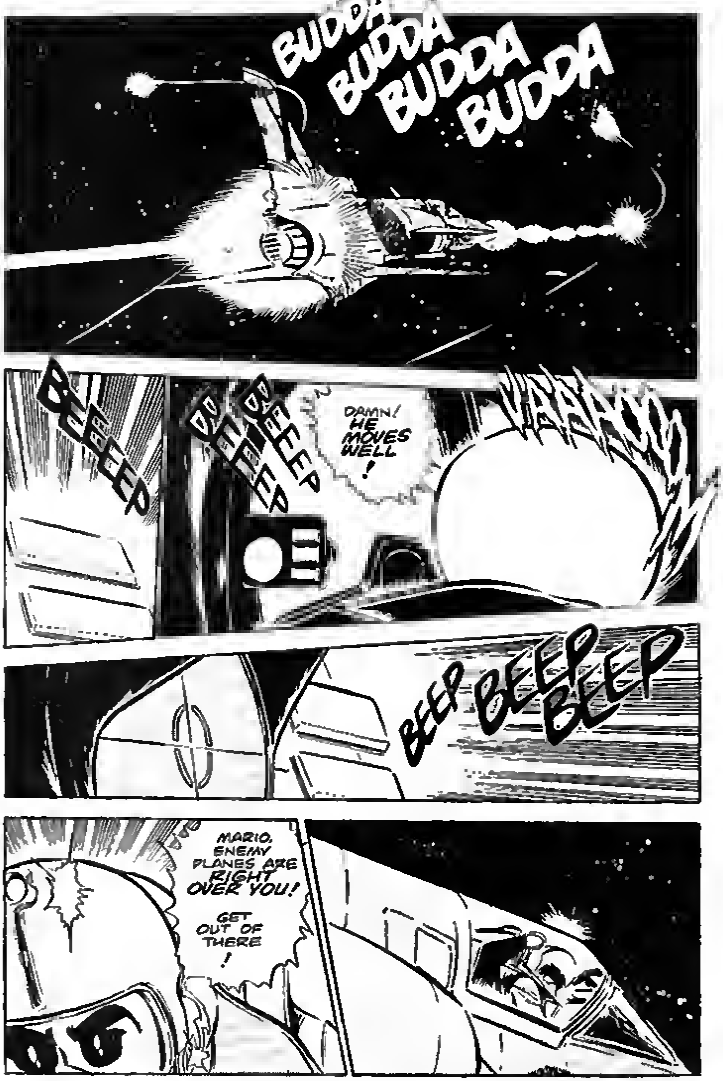
ATTACK !!

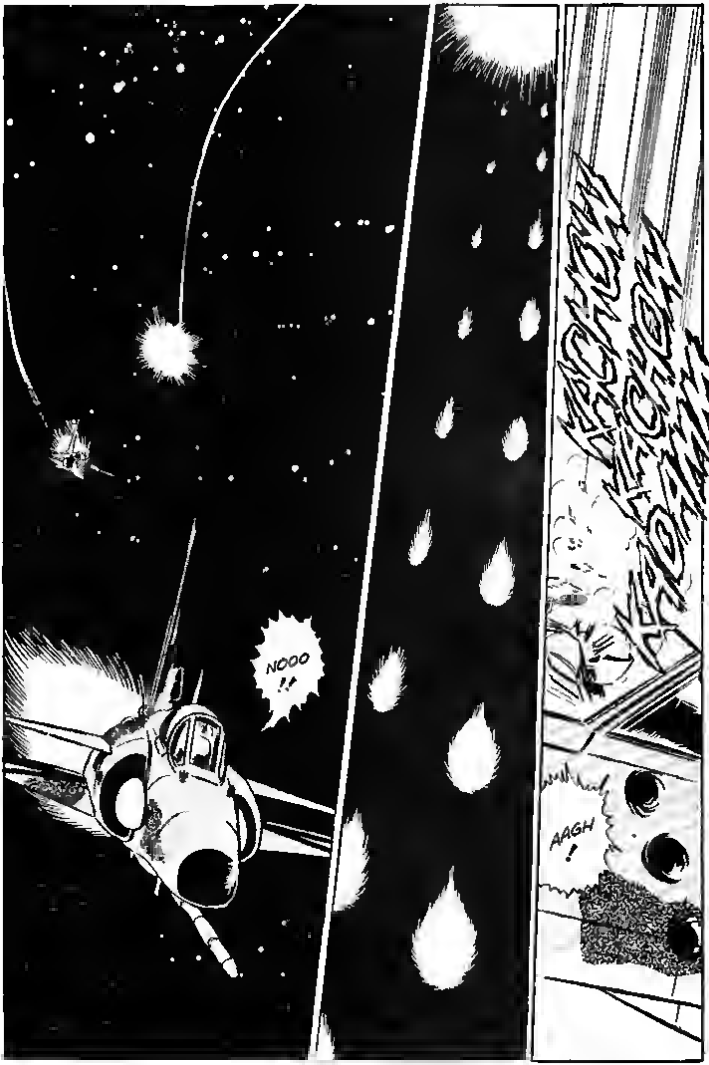

MICK, STAY CLOSE TO ME! SHIN, SUPPORT MARIO AND ATTACK THEIR LEFT FLANK!
MARIO, GET READY TO VACATE THIS AIRSPACE !!
SHOOOOOOM
TALK NONSENSE LATER-- IF YOU SURVIVE !
I HEARD YOU WERE NUMBER ONE IN AREA 88! WELL, IM THE NEW NUMBER ONE STARTING TODAY!
MARIO FOLLOW ME!
VEEEOOM
EEEEEEEEE


I GOT IT !!
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
SHAAARROOOM


PEYOWW
BOOM
BOOM
DOES HE HAVE TO FIRE SO MANY SHELLS JUST BECAUSE HE'S ON MY TAIL?!
YEEEEEOOOOM
SHEEOO
SAYONARA!
BADOOM!

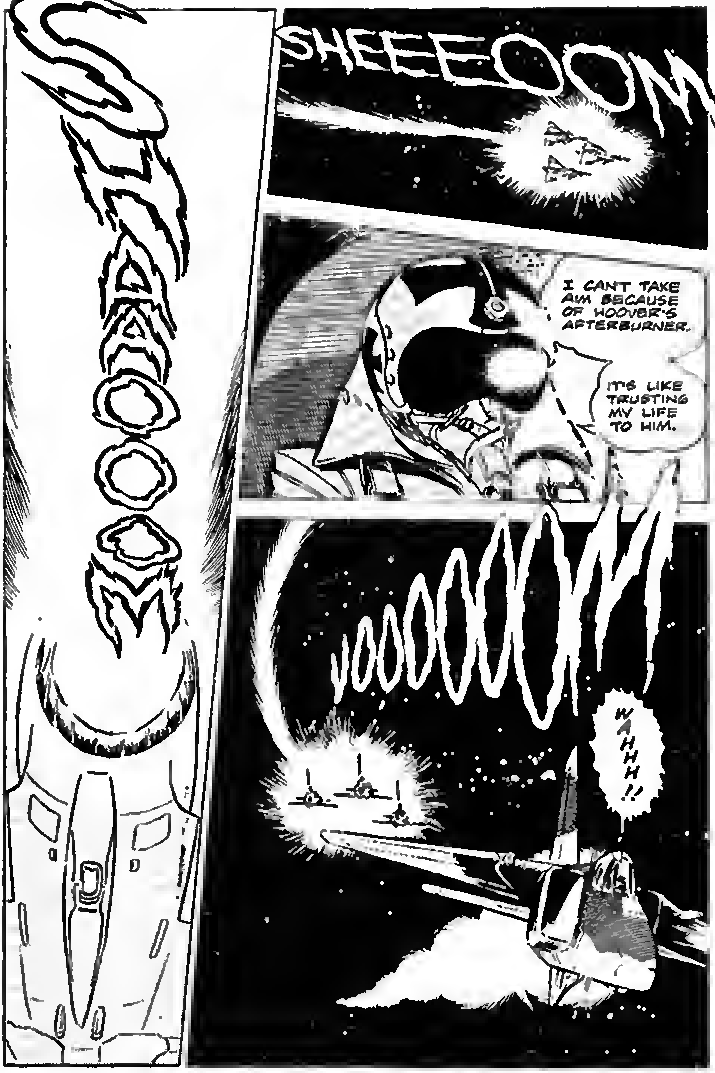

WHAT ?!
THE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM READS GREEN. IT'S MICK AND HOOVER...
SHIN, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MARIO ?!
SHAAOOOOOM
THAT IDIOT! I TOLD HIM TO GET OUT OF THE COMBAT ZONE!
MARIO, DON'T PURSUE THEM ANY FARTHER!
SHUT UP! THIS WILL BE MY THIRD KILL!
I'M GOING TO BE TODAY'S ACE!

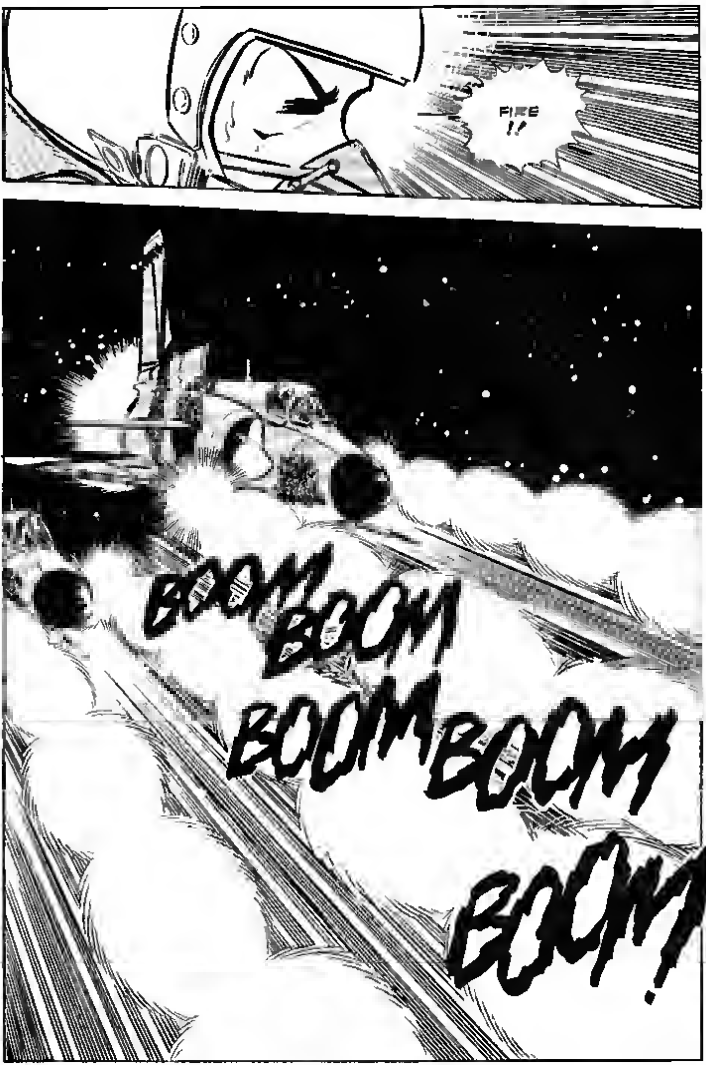

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
BEEP BEEP BEEP
DAMN! HE MOVES WELL!
YAAAH
BEEP BEEP BEEP
MARIO, ENEMY PLANES ARE RIGHT OVER YOU!
GET OUT OF THERE!


NOOO
!!
AAGH
!

MARIO !!
CHIN, SUPPORT THE LEFT !
MICK, TAKE THE RIGHT !
DIVE INTO THE TRIANGLE FORMATION !
FOLLOW ME! LOOK ONLY AT MY AFTERBURNER! WHEN I TELL YOU TO FIRE, FIRE A VOLLEY !
GO!!
VEEOOOOOO

VEEEOOOO

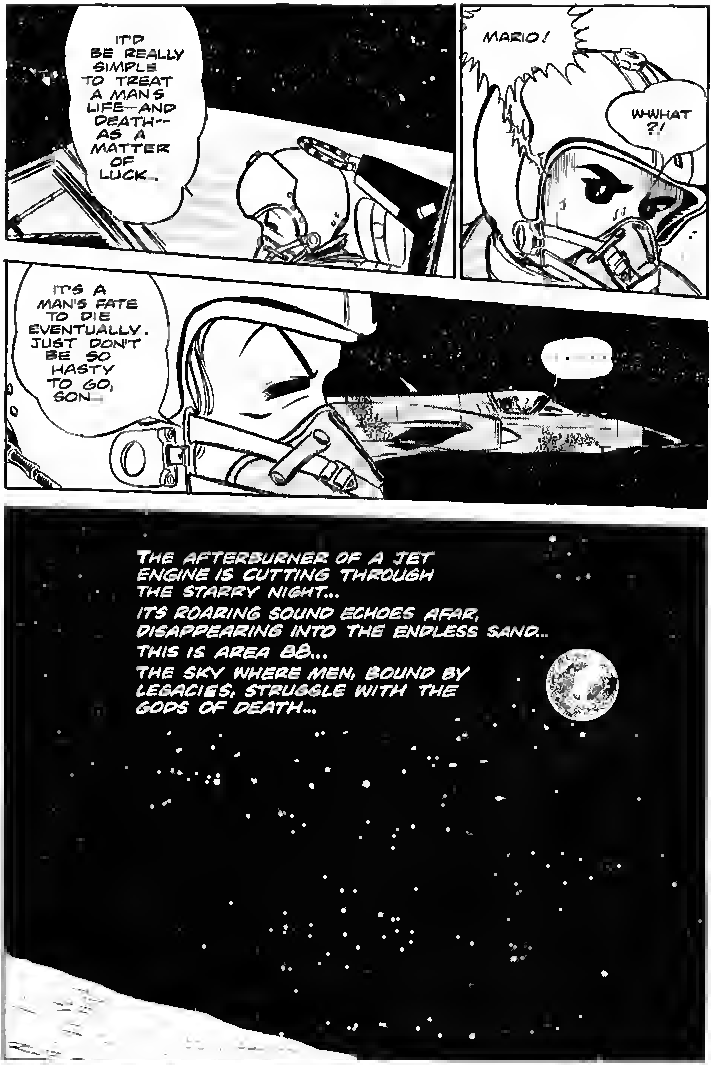

SHEEEOOM
I CANT TAKE AIM BECAUSE OF HOOVER'S AFTERBURNER.
IT'S LIKE TRUSTING MY LIFE TO HIM.
WAHHH!!


FIRE !!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM!

AAHHH!!!
BAWOOM
KABOOM
KABOOM
WE FIRED SIX 30MM MACHINE GUNS AT THE SAME TIME...
ONCE THEY'RE HIT, THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN SURVIVE.
SHOOOM

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MARIO?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S NOTHING!
IF IT WASN'T FOR US, YOU'D BE SMOKING MEAT ON THE GROUND RIGHT NOW!
HAH! I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR MEDDLING HELP!
DON'T ACT SO TOUGH! I CAN HEAR YOUR TEETH CLATTERING OVER THE RADIO!
. . . . . .
CHAKA CHAKA CHAKA
CHAKA CHAKA CHAKA
ANYWAY, I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T LOSE ANYONE TONIGHT..
I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE ANOTHER ACCIDENT LIKE THAT AGAIN..
HOOVER..
WHEN I WAS IN THE NATO AIR FORCE, WE WERE TRAINING PILOTS IN A MASSED FORMATION OVER THE ALPS..
I WAS DESCENDING IN FULL BURNER, AND THEY FOLLOWED ME..

MY DESCENT WAS TOO QUICK, SO I CUT THE BURNER AND STARTED TO ASCEND AT THAT MOMENT, THE SUN WAS SHINING THROUGH THE EDGE OF MOUNT BLANC...
THEY COULDN'T SEE MY PLANE MAKING ITS ASCENT..
THEY MISTOOK THE SUNSHINE FOR MY AFTERBURNER. AND THEY..THEY CRASHED ONE AFTER THE OTHER...
THEY WERE NICE GUYS..THEY WERE YOUNG AND FULL OF LIFE AND THEY ENJOYED FLYING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE..
I KILLED THEM..
HOOVER, DONT BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF! IT'S JUST BAD LUCK!
.....


IT'D BE REALLY SIMPLE TO TREAT A MAN'S LIFE--AND DEATH--AS A MATTER OF LUCK...
MARIO!
WHAT?!
IT'S A MAN'S FATE TO DIE EVENTUALLY. JUST DON'T BE SO HASTY TO GO, SON...
THE AFTERBURNER OF A JET ENGINE IS CUTTING THROUGH THE STARRY NIGHT...
ITS ROARING SOUND ECHOES AFAR, DISAPPEARING INTO THE ENDLESS SAND...
THIS IS AREA 88...
THE SKY WHERE MEN, BOUND BY LEGACIES, STRUGGLE WITH THE GODS OF DEATH...